July 8, 1970

Dear Mary,

I put your letter in the mail. Is it to a family friend or are those your old neighbors from Ohio who I met when I was in Dallas. I can appreciate your desire to avoid a visit from either one.

I heartily agree with your comments about Harold. I have found him to be amazingly perceptive about emotional problems and have made use of advice from him myself. I am sorry that I have not written more and given more advice although I must confess that I am very predisposed to face to face talking rather than letter writing. I am glad that Harold was there when you needed someone. Both of us have been very concerned since the problem developed. I would like to visit you and might be able to manage it for a few days plus a weekend. My vacation is almost swallowed up completely now or accounted for by a visit from an old girlfriend during the last two weeks of August. Given the # of people who I have helped untangle their social and/or emotional lives my own unsatisfactory romantic life has presented quite a contrast. I share your disinterest in midwesterners.

I spoke at the national convention of legal investigators last week and attended all the social events. My speech was very well received and it looks like they may invite me to be the first non-professional member in the history of their organization. I also made a number of very good contacts. I met a friend of Nickolas Tadin, the last Shaw trial witness, and also met a friend of LBJ's brother. The latter lives only two houses away from the brother and is part of an upper class social clique. I have an invitation to visit which I will use next year if I get the chance.

Lifton and the Newcombs seem to be on the outs for real this time. Even my getting them two extra copies of that film didn't patch it up. In fact, Fred is worried about my having sent them to Dave for both of them. Dave has successfully milked one more critic for his work and then done things to alienate him. The latter is probably unconscious most of the time, but in Dave's case appears to be quite predictable. People who are that paranoid have a way of stirring up anger and resentment and distrust in others. Most people misunderstand this aspect of paranoid conditions--that paranoid people typically do have people out to get them and typically most of their fears are rational, although they themselves have created the situation.

Hope that the time you will spend with Sylvia will be productive. I have mixed feelings about her but do not really know her personally except through letters and phone conversations. Twice when I was driving up to New York to visit her I had car breakdowns or minor accidents so bad luck has kept me from meeting her. I think that her book is excellent as are her early articles, but have found her rigid and cynical at times and unwilling to look beyond a well defined group of facts and incidents. She is quite bright and has a good mind and has done a lot of hard work. I have mixed impressions as to how much work she is doing now or how interested she is in being a critic. She assaulted me verbally on the phone (saying I needed to grow up, etc.) during a discussion of Garrison and maintained that anyone who did anything but attack him publicly had no credibility. When I challenged her prejudging the Shaw trial she got especially angry. Her solution was a new congressional investigation although she expressed no ideas as to how to bring it about

nor did she indicate any interest in doing any future pressuring of congressmen (as I am still doing personally as is Harold). So, I hope that you can get her working on the case again or doing public work--presuming that she is not. Harold knows her and can tell you much more about her. She is kind of an old guard liberal and was extremely close personally with M.S.Arnoni of The Minority of One so if Sue or Arch are around it might be good to avoid certain topics.

I spoke with Dick Sprague on the phone and he and Bud (you may know this) are working on programing everyone's files into a retrieval system. They still need money and programers. Dick still claims to have a confession from one of the assassins and I had to talk him out of showing it to a wealthy political scientist who I sent to see Dick's photo albums.

Our summer weather is getting better and better and my therapy cases are improving so things have been looking up lately. If my love life picks up everything will be fine. I went to the opening of a fine exhibit of Richard Avedon's photography which isn't to be missed if it comes to Texas. I like openings because they are the only time you can go through an exhibit with a glass of wine in your hand.

Our local planned parenthood people, who are supposed to give birth control advice without moralizing and offer our Counseling center if people are conflicted, turn out to be doing some fairly harsh moralizing with young girls. One of my patients went to pieces there because they made her feel so degraded. Ironically, such moralizing tends to get younger girls to go out and get pregnant. So, I am on the warpath. The pill is better than an abortion any day.

I hope that things are going well with the doctor you are seeing. It is never selfish to worry about oneself and does usually turn out to be the best help to ones family. Your letter to Harold of June 10 has made me realize that I sometimes attribute superhuman powers to you in terms of ability to handle problems and rebound from bad situations. You have had to be the strongest person around for so long that you really project that image. My errors of judgment are usually in the opposite direction since it is safer to err in that direction. Well, in any event, it is an illustration of the respect I have for you as a person.

Has Sue mentioned anything about Paul Rothermel? I wonder how he's doing. Hunt lost a very good man.

I hope that this letter finds you and your family in better shape than in the past months. Please give my regards to Jimmy Lee, and the rest of your family. The Newcombs tell me that Val will be going to college in Texas so I assume that relationship is developing. Well, I'd better go now. Take care.

Love,

Mary